BENGALURU, MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 22 | Humidity 52% Partly sunny Sensex 76,913 | Nifty 23,997 | Gold 1,51,568 | Silver 2,47,500 | Dollar 94.84 | Euro 111.34 | GBP 129.02

GRIME SCENE

Citizens raise alarm as untreated sewage continues to flow into Uttarahalli Lake despite recent cleaning efforts

PAGE 4

FEELING THE PINCH

Household expenses quietly rising as global tensions refuse to die down: A look at how it is making holes in your wallet

PAGE 7

Burden of clean-up falls on pourakarmikas after civic agency struggles to clear debris, treefall remains three days after downpour as 27 canopy management teams, one rapid response force not enough to do the job

'UNSUNG HEROES' PUT TO WORK, YET AGAIN

Workers say they are told to finish extra work within stipulated shifts to avoid overtime wages

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Three days after heavy rains lashed Bengaluru, large parts of the city grappled with the aftermath, including water-logging, slush, and debris piled up along roads and neighbourhoods. While the rains subsided, the process of restoring normalcy remained slow, with several areas still bearing visible signs of disruption.

The burden of the cleanup fell largely on pourakarmikas, the city's sanitation workers, who have been working extended hours to clear silt, unclog drains, and remove fallen branches and waste. Their efforts have been central to reopening roads and making public spaces usable again, even as challenges persist.

Civic authorities had deployed teams and machinery across affected zones, but the scale of the task hampered swift progress. According to available data, the city currently has 27 tree canopy management teams — five in the North Corporation, two in the East, six in the South, eight in the West, and six in the Central Corporation. In addition, there is only one rapid response team for the entire city, raising concerns about the capacity to respond swiftly to widespread damage caused by heavy rains.

"Pourakarmikas are treated as an emergency workforce without being given the protections that such roles demand. They are working in hazardous conditions — handling debris, stagnant water, and sometimes even live electrical risks — without adequate safety gear or compensation

— Labour rights activist

Nirmala M, President of Pourakarmika Sangha told Bangalore Mirror that the pourakarmikas have to clean up all the debris left over after harsh rain. "We're told to finish the additional work within our stipulated shifts — this is how authorities avoid paying overtime wages," she noted, adding that even small showers leads to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Go on a trip, don't be taken for a ride

Google maps may save you from fake hotel booking scams

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Planning for a holiday vacation or temple run? Just be careful with the bookings as cybercriminals are cashing in on the rush. Police officials and cybersecurity experts have flagged fake hotel reservation scams this summer. Cybersecurity experts say travellers should stay cautious, urging that one simple step can prevent fraud -- Cross-checking the property on Google Maps to ensure the hotel physically exists before making any payment.

National Cybersecurity Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer Chetan Anand explained that travellers are being lured through convincing look-alike websites, manipulated search advertisements, and fraudulent social media listings. Posing as reputed properties, fraudsters are deceiving tourists and business travellers into making advance payments for rooms that do not exist, with many realising the fraud only upon arrival or after being pressured to make additional payments.

Take the case of a 33-year-old software

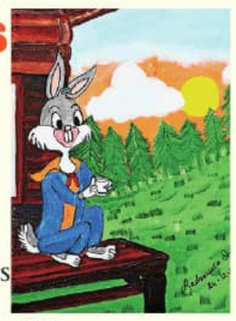
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Let the music play

Rudraksha Live Entertainment Pvt Ltd presents Jazbaa, a concert featuring Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj — a powerhouse duo in Indian music and cinema, known for their deeply moving collaborations and individual brilliance. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity; When: May 30, 7 pm**

02 Joy in memories



Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes. **Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Until May 30**

03 Let the good times roll

SOCIAL is set to host She-nanigans, its women-only nights, across select outlets, bringing together music, drinks and its signature high-energy vibe in a no-filter setting. **Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: May 6, 7 pm**

04 Heartfelt moments

Suzy Q will mark Mother's Day with a curated afternoon for groups of mums and a small handwritten keepsake at every family table. **Where: Suzy Q, Queen's Road; When: May 10, 12.30 pm**

05 Get the giggles

Rahul Dua, renowned stand-up comedian, a powerhouse performer, host (Shark Tank India Season 2 & 3, Comicstaan S3 Finale), actor, creator and writer will be performing live, marking his second stand-up special. **Where: MLR Convention Centre, Whitefield; When: May 10, 7 pm**

Plans to amend building bylaws met with pushback

In its objection letter, Namma Whitefield RWA Federation warns that proposed amendment could worsen city's strained infrastructure

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Proposed amendments permit regularisation of building plan violations where demolition is infeasible, if deviations remain within prescribed condonable limits (File photo)

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has issued a draft notification proposing significant amendments to the Bengaluru City Corporation Building Bye-laws, 2003, including provisions to regularise certain construction deviations in sanctioned building plans through payment of compounding fees. Published on April 1, 2026, under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, the draft amendment was to be open for public objections and suggestions for 30 days before being considered for final notification.

Among the key changes proposed is the removal of existing provisions relating to ground rent. More significantly, the draft seeks to amend Bye-law 6.0 to permit the Commissioner to regularise violations or deviations in sanctioned plans where demolition is deemed structurally infeasible, provided the deviations fall within prescribed condonable limits. Under the proposal, deviations of up to 15 per cent in setbacks, plot coverage, and FAR may be regularised in smaller plots up to 500 square metres, while larger plots above 500 square metres may be allowed FAR deviations of up to 5 per cent. The draft also introduces detailed compounding fees based on guidance value and building use, including separate penalty slabs for residential and non-residential properties. However, the proposal has drawn strong criticism from resident groups, with the Namma Whitefield RWA Federation formally objecting to the amendment and calling for its complete withdrawal.

Sandeep Anirudhan from Namma Whitefield RWA said, "The proposed amendment effectively legalises unauthorised constructions by permitting post-facto regularisation upon payment of compounding fees. This reverses the foundational principle of planning regulation, whereby development must strictly conform to sanctioned plans. The amendment renders statutory approvals meaningless and erodes the rule of law."

He said by allowing deviations up to 15 per cent, the amendment creates a perverse incentive for builders to intentionally violate sanctioned plans with the expectation of subsequent regularisation. "This rewards non-compliance while penalising law-abiding citizens, thereby undermining fairness and governance," he added.

The federation argued that the move would worsen Bengaluru's already strained infrastructure and create further pressure on roads, drainage systems and emergency access.

In its objection letter, the federation also contended that the amendment grants excessive discretionary power to the Commissioner, raising concerns over transparency and misuse.

Anirudhan added that the Supreme Court has repeatedly made it clear that unauthorised constructions must face strict consequences, including demolition where necessary.

The federation has also criticised the consultation process, noting that the notification does not provide any digital or online mode for citizens to submit objections, calling the process exclusionary and outdated.

Man granted KGA life membership after alleged caste bias

The Additional City Civil & Sessions Court has ordered the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) to recognise an individual as duly selected for life membership and complete all related formalities within 30 days. In an order dated April 30, the XV Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge declared that the KGA's October 14, 2020 letter rejecting AM Suresh Raj's life membership application was null, void and not binding.

The judge further ordered that the defendant, its committee, office bearers, agents, or anyone acting on its behalf be permanently restrained from interfering with AM Suresh Raj's rights as a life member, including full access to the club's golf course and allied amenities.

It all began when the KGA allegedly suspended Suresh Raj's temporary membership from March 14, 2019 to September 13, 2019.

Bangalore Mirror published a story 'Police lands at golf association premises' on June 18, 2022, narrating how Jeevan Bima Nagar police had visited the KGA premises on June 15 after an FIR was registered against the club president, secretary and four others for allegedly insulting and intimidating AM Suresh Raj based on his caste.

Suresh Raj, in a complaint, stated that the problems he faced began after he revealed his caste to the KGA governing body members, following which they allegedly began treating him differently and even reportedly attempted to avoid him altogether.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Suresh Raj expressed his delight, stating that he was extremely pleased with the court's decision. **— BMB**

Vulture population rises in Bandipur and BRT reserves

The population of vultures, once considered to be on the verge of extinction, is now showing a steady increase in Karnataka's Bandipur and Biligiri Ranganatha Tiger (BRT) reserves, offering a positive sign for wildlife conservation. In recent times, these scavenger birds are being spotted more frequently during safaris, bringing cheer to wildlife enthusiasts. Known as nature's cleaners, vultures play a critical role in maintaining ecological balance by feeding on carcasses and preventing the spread of diseases.

Forest officials said that the decline in vulture numbers during the 1990s was largely due to the use of the drug diclofenac in livestock, which proved fatal to the birds. Following its ban, their population has gradually recovered. Conservation of trees and minimal human interference in forest areas have also supported nesting and breeding.

Currently, species such as the white-rumped vulture, Indian vulture and red-headed vulture are found in Bandipur and Nagarahole. **— BMB**

K'taka Chitrakala Parishath's national art fair to begin May 6

The Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath on Kumara Krupa Road will host the 'Namma Art–Bengaluru' National Art Fair from May 6 to 10, aiming to create a market for artworks on the lines of New Delhi and Mumbai. Parishath President BL Shankar said this is the second edition of the inclusive fair, offering a wide platform for both traditional and contemporary art. Around 150 artists, including 80 noted names from across the country, will showcase and sell over 1,500 artworks valued in lakhs. The exhibition will be held across 60 'Chittara' stalls and galleries within the premises, open daily from 10 am to 7 pm, with free entry for visitors and an opportunity to buy directly from artists.

Alongside the fair, a curated exhibition by art historian Leena Vincent will be held across four galleries from May 6 to 20. The event will also feature masterclasses and panel discussions at Gandhi Kutira from May 7 to 9. **— BMB**

Beans prices cross ₹200 mark, vegetable rates surge amid heat

As summer temperatures rise, the price of beans has shot past the Rs 200 mark, adding to the burden on consumers. The spike is attributed to heat stress damaging crops, with flowers and pods falling off and water scarcity drying up yields. At the same time, demand has increased due to weddings and local festivals, leading to a sharp mismatch between supply and demand.

At HOPCOMS, beans that were priced at Rs 90 per kg on April 14 have surged to Rs 240 per kg by May 2. In wholesale markets, prices are around Rs 120 per kg, while retail rates have touched Rs 200, with some traders even halting sales due to limited supply.

Other vegetables have also seen price fluctuations. Tomatoes have risen to around Rs 48 per kg at HOPCOMS and are being sold at Rs 50–60 in retail markets after recent rains and hailstorms damaged crops. Lemon prices have soared to Rs 315 per kg, driven by strong summer demand. Leafy greens have also become costlier, with bunch prices reaching Rs 25–30, while coriander is priced at Rs 50–60 per bunch due to reduced supply caused by heat and rain damage. Officials say prices are likely to remain high until the end of May as production continues to be affected. **— BMB**

Father granted unsupervised visitation rights

Bench stresses interim custody orders must prioritise child welfare and ensure continued parental contact

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The Karnataka High Court has upheld an order granting a father unsupervised visitation rights, emphasising that courts handling custody disputes at an interim stage should avoid delving into contested allegations and instead focus on creating workable arrangements that safeguard a child's emotional well-being.

A Bench led by Justice K Manmadha Rao observed that, at the interlocutory stage, courts do not conduct a "roving enquiry" into disputed claims. It said courts must instead ensure that the child continues to have meaningful contact with both parents, which remains vital for emotional stability.

The case arose from a challenge to a Family Court order that modified earlier visitation terms. Initially, the court granted the father supervised access for limited hours. It later revised the arrangement, allowing him to meet the child on the second and fourth Sundays of each month between 10 am and 12 pm, with permission to pick up and drop off the child, effectively granting unsupervised visitation.

The mother approached the High Court, arguing that such access could harm the child's welfare, particularly given the child's young age and certain allegations against the father. However, the High Court found that the Family Court had carefully weighed relevant factors, including the child's age, the need to avoid disrupting the primary caregiving arrangement, and the father's willingness to accept shorter visitation periods.

The Bench noted that the reduced duration of visitation reflected a conscious attempt to balance competing concerns rather than an arbitrary decision. It reiterated that in custody matters, the child's welfare remains paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations.

The court also said interim arrangements do not conclusively determine disputes between parents but ensure continuity in the child's relationship with both. It found that the structured visitation schedule did not harm the child, given its limited duration and regulated nature.

Referring to evolving principles on shared parenting, the Court stressed the need for meaningful parental contact for a child's emotional and psychological development. It said the mother could seek modifications before the Family Court, which can better monitor such arrangements. The High Court also clarified that its powers under Articles 226 and 227 remain limited and found no grounds to interfere, dismissing the petition while granting liberty to seek relief if circumstances change.

Biker defuses road rage, restores order

As road rage takes centre stage, another such incident was reported on Saturday night when a passing biker intervened in a dispute between an irate auto-rickshaw driver and a scooter rider.

The biker noticed the duo locked in a heated argument in the middle of traffic, both refusing to yield, blocking the road and causing major disruption. In a video that surfaced on social media, the biker is seen asking the drivers to drop their ego-driven standoff, calling it pointless and dangerous for others on the crowded road. His calm behaviour helped de-escalate the situation and restore movement. The video, recorded on the biker's helmet camera, has drawn attention online, with police gathering information and initiating further investigation. **–BMB**

Auto driver murdered over parking row

A 26-year-old auto driver, identified as Mubarak, was allegedly murdered at Padarayanapura over a parking dispute. According to police reports, the incident occurred around 10 am near Rehmania Masjid on 9th Main Road.

The father of the deceased, M Firoz, 62, approached the Jagajeevanram Nagar Police Station and filed a complaint. Police said Tabrez attacked Mubarak with a wooden stick during a heated argument over a parking space near a local school. Mubarak, who had recently married and lived separately at 7th Cross,Padarayanapura, suffered severe head injuries and bled profusely. Bystanders rushed him to hospital; police registered case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita(BNS), further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

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Citizens want to step in to stop lake from turning into gutter

GBA's nod sought for volunteer-led rejuvenation before monsoon as sewage infow continues in recently-cleaned Uttarahalli lake, leaving it filled with debris, stinking

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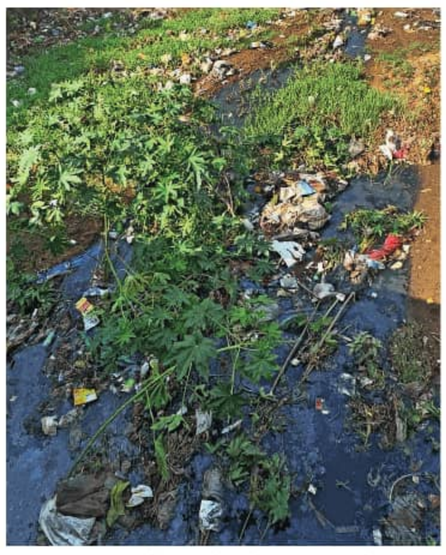
Lake remains dry, filled with debris after years of neglect

Residents of Uttarahalli have renewed calls for restoration of Uttarahalli Lake, urging authorities to act quickly as untreated sewage continues to flow into the waterbody despite recent cleaning efforts.

The lake, once an important ecological asset, remains in poor condition after years of neglect. Though cleaning work was recently undertaken, residents say the core issue of sewage inflow has not been addressed, leaving the lake dried, filled with debris, and emitting a foul smell. Residents have written to MLA M Krishnappa, seeking his intervention in securing approvals from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) for a community-led restoration effort.

In their letter, they stated that the current dry period before the monsoon presents a crucial opportunity for restoration. They have sought GBA's approval for volunteer-led rejuvenation, access to the official lake map, and permission to conduct drone surveys to identify sewage entry points and inflow blockages.

"Recently the lake was taken up for cleaning. While the lake was cleaned, it hadn't stopped drainage water entering it. We want GBA and BWSSB to intervene and solve the issue. We need an STP for the lake. Drainage water is entering, causing foul smell and making it unbearable for residents nearby. Since 2020, the STP is not operational," said Nischith Ashok Kumar, a resident.



Among those backing up the initiative is Revathi Kamath, environmentalist and philanthropist, who has written to Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner Ramesh KN of GBA, seeking permission to lead restoration efforts.

> **"This is a beautiful lake visited by many residents. If it is restored, hundreds of people will visit daily. We have philanthropists supporting restoration**
> – Uttarahalli resident

Her proposed plan includes conducting a drone survey to map sewage entry points, waste dumping zones, inflow blockages, and damaged areas as a baseline for restoration. She also proposed large-scale cleaning drives with volunteers and environmental groups to remove debris, silt, plastic waste, and pollutants. Further, Kamath has sought coordination with BWSSB to ensure immediate operationalisation of the non-functional sewage treatment plant. Her proposal includes identifying drains carrying untreated sewage, removing invasive weeds, and undertaking eco-sensitive landscaping to improve ecological and aesthetic value while preserving habitat. "This is a beautiful lake visited by many residents. If it is restored, hundreds of people will visit daily. We have philanthropists supporting restoration. We have been following up for a long time. Now we need support from GBA," added Nischith Ashok Kumar.

Hopes are there from the authorities that they will expedite approvals before the monsoon to begin restoration during the dry spell and prevent further degradation.

"Many engineers are getting reassigned for different lakes once appointed. The officers assigned will check what needs to be done," said a GBA official.

Wall collapse: Vendors seek enhanced compensation, rehab measures

Union writes to CM, demanding that compensation for bereaved families be increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh

The Karnataka PragatiPara Beedhi Vyaparigala Sangha has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking enhanced compensation, rehabilitation measures, and accountability following the recent wall collapse at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar, which killed and injured several street vendors and others who had taken shelter from rain.

In its letter, the union demanded that compensation for families of the deceased be increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh, stating that the current amount is inadequate considering the financial vulnerability of affected families. It also sought ₹10 lakh compensation for each injured person, noting that many vendors may require months to recover before they can resume work.

The union further urged the government to compensate vendors for loss of goods and working capital damaged in the incident. With highlighting concerns over safety restrictions around the hospital premises, it called for immediate consultations with vendor representatives to identify and allocate alternative vending spaces so that livelihoods are not disrupted.

Demanding accountability, the union sought a judicial inquiry into the wall to collapse to determine responsibility. It also urged the state government and the Greater Bengaluru Authority to hold discussions with informal workers on mitigating climate-related livelihood risks. Stating that street vendors are vital to Bengaluru's urban economy, the union urged swift action. — BMB

23 govt high schools are now PU colleges

Following the 2025–26 Budget announcement, the state government has approved the upgradation of 23 government high schools into Pre-University (PU) colleges, set to begin from the 2026–27 academic year. As per the Pre-University Education Department order, these institutions will offer Kannada as the first language, Hindi as the second, along with commerce streams.

Separate codes have been assigned, and district officials have been directed to deploy lecturers with lighter workloads. Officials say the move will benefit rural students, especially girls, who often drop out after SSLC due to limited access. The policy targets areas without nearby PU colleges and with adequate student strength. — BMB

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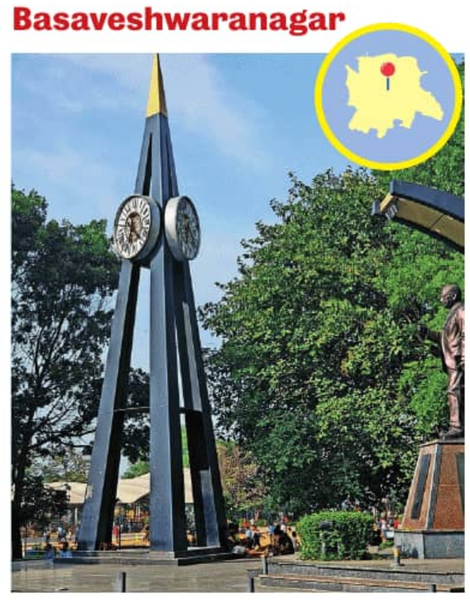

A clock at a stadium near a convention centre in Basaveshwaranagar has remained defunct for 18 months, raising concerns over maintenance and upkeep.

Unsafe walkway
Richard's Town

The pedestrian walkway on Pottery Road in Richard's Town, leading to the railway underpass, is unsafe due to an open chamber, exposed BESCOM cable, and uneven surface.

Waste hotspot
RT Nagar

A major garbage dump persists in RT Nagar, opposite a bank and beside a dairy, posing a constant civic and hygiene concern.

All govt data, on an e-platter

Young innovator designs open-source platform that transforms public information into usable insights; 159 active infra projects in Bengaluru also being tracked

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Information of projects like metro expansion, road work in the city is already up on the website

With cities growing rapidly and governance challenges becoming more complex, access to reliable public data remains a persistent issue. Addressing this gap, Jayanth Malathi Basavaraju, a 26-year-old from Mandya, has developed ForThePeople.in, a free, open-source, ad-free platform that aggregates publicly available government data into accessible dashboards for every Indian district.

Currently live in nine districts across seven states, the platform spans infrastructure projects, government schemes, crop prices, dam levels, exam notifications, elections, courts, police data, RTI, transport and civic issues. All data is sourced from official portals under India's Open Data Policy (NDSAP), with plans to scale to over 780 districts while remaining independent and citizen-focused.

The idea traces back to 2018, when Jayanth, then an engineering student preparing for UPSC, struggled to find basic information about his own district. "Websites would crash, pages wouldn't load, and data was scattered across multiple portals," he said. What began as a personal frustration soon revealed a wider problem, eventually shaping an eight-year vision.

"The platform already tracks 159 active infrastructure projects in Bengaluru, including metro expansions, road works, water supply upgrades and urban development initiatives, along with budgets, timelines and delays

By 2026, after gaining expertise in automation and product development, he began building the platform. Months of research and design followed, during which he encountered systemic challenges. Government platforms, he observed, are not designed for ordinary citizens, often relying on outdated interfaces and unreliable systems that hinder usability. A major obstacle continues to be data availability. Much of the information is scattered or locked in PDFs and spreadsheets, requiring manual extraction and structuring.

While API access from data.gov.in provides partial support, a big chunk still demands hands-on processing. Jayanth supplements this by analysing news updates and monitoring district and state-level portals to ensure the data remains current. Every data point displayed is manually verified.

Users can report errors through a 'Report Issue' feature, while the system provides clear attribution, timestamps and update logs. Jayanth also plans to integrate AI models to cross-reference multiple sources, assess reliability and introduce a 'Verified by ForThePeople.in' badge to flag inconsistencies.

The backend operates in layers. Government data forms the foundation, supported by an AI-driven layer that analyses news and public documents while cross-referencing sources. Each state's data is standardised using customised blueprints. An admin panel enables real-time monitoring and quick resolution of issues.

The platform already tracks 159 active infrastructure projects in Bengaluru, including metro expansions, road works, water supply upgrades and urban development initiatives, along with budgets, timelines and delays.

It also features a district health scoring system that evaluates governance data quality and an exam tracker that has gained traction among students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. "The goal is to create a single window where citizens can understand everything about their district and eventually take action," Jayanth said. Future plans include a dynamic India map offering personalised insights based on PIN codes or profession, fiscal accountability tracking and anonymised public opinion tools to encourage civic engagement.

Out-of-state vehicles brought in tax net

The Transport Department has moved to implement the amended motor vehicles taxation law, enabling it to levy taxes on vehicles registered in other states but operating within Karnataka. The new provisions were notified on Wednesday, marking a policy shift aimed at discouraging vehicle owners from opting for registrations outside the state to benefit from lower tax rates, officials said.

The amendment seeks to promote local registration while revising lifetime tax structures for commercial vehicles such as tractors, power tillers and trailers, and increasing registration taxes for private vehicles, including cars and jeeps. Under the new framework, vehicles registered outside Karnataka but used within the state will attract tax ranging from 5 percent to 15 percent based on their value. Vehicles priced below ₹10 lakh will be taxed at 5 percent, those between ₹10 lakh and ₹15 lakh at 10 percent, and those above ₹15 lakh at 15 percent.

For already registered vehicles, tax liability will range between 25 percent and 93 percent of the lifetime tax, depending on the year of registration. For new registrations within Karnataka, tractors and trailers will be taxed at 10 percent of their value, while cars, jeeps and buses will attract a 13 percent tax.

A Transport official said, "In the case of transport vehicles used for hire, tax will be calculated based on seating capacity. A base rate of ₹1,500 per passenger seat has been fixed, while buses carrying more than 12 passengers and luxury vehicles will be taxed at ₹2,500 per seat. Vehicles with sleeper berths will attract ₹3,000 per seat." The revised law also brings electric vehicles under the tax net. Battery-operated cars, jeeps and buses will now attract tax ranging from 5 percent to 10 percent depending on cost. Vehicles priced below ₹10 lakh will be taxed at 5 percent, those between ₹10 lakh and ₹25 lakh at 8 percent, and those above ₹25 lakh at 10 percent. **BMB**

Whistle-blower's car vandalised

A month after some people put up defamatory banners against a woman whistle-blower in Vignana Nagar ward of KR Puram, police have managed to arrest just three people with two more accused at large. Now, the whistle-blower Satyavani has had to face more trouble after the windshield of her car was broken on Saturday. CCTV footage reveals a miscreant wearing a helmet approaching the car and striking the windshield repeatedly with a steel rod.

"I approached HAL Police and submitted a complaint. The Police Inspector is not interested in registering a first information report. I am worried about my safety. My only fault was that I raised my voice against encroachment of a storm water drain. What can I do if police fail to act?" asked Satyavani.

On Sunday, a delegation led by Aam Aadmi Party Karnataka Working President Seetharam Gundappa met the Commissioner of Police, seeking directions to register an FIR. "I condemn the vandalising of Satyavani's car. Police must act against those responsible for banners and this attack," he said.

Bangalore Mirror had reported on April 7 about how miscreants were trying to silence the woman whistle-blower by putting up around 40 banners with her photograph and warning the public about her.

HAL Police Inspector said three accused were arrested in the banner case. "We have registered a non-cognisable report against an unknown person for damaging the car. An FIR will be registered after court permission," he said.

— Y Maheshwara Reddy

Paperless registration sparks security and livelihood fears

Digital registration rollout in Chamarajanagar replaces signatures with OTPs, triggering fraud concerns and protests from document writers seeking inclusion

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Licensed document writers protest, showing documents against paperless property registration initiative citing fraud and livelihood concerns

The Revenue Department's latest initiative of digital and paperless process in registration of documents at Sub-Registrar Offices in Chamarajanagar District with effect from April 30, 2026 has caused anxiety over the security of properties registered through the digital and paperless method. Licensed document writers' association has said that the latest initiative not only facilitates fraud, hacking and land grabbing but also deprives of livelihood for over 15,000 licensed document writers across the state.

The Revenue Department (Stamps and Registration) Under Secretary issued an order on April 28 to implement the digital and paperless process for registration of documents in all Sub-Registrar Offices of Chamarajanagar district from April 30. The preamble of the order stated that the initiative aims to eliminate manual dependency, errors, duplication and paper usage, and ensure transparency, integrity, security, environmental sustainability and ease of access through a fully paperless and digital registration system.

The order also stated that the government has established a Karnataka Registered Document Repository for storage and preservation of digitised registered documents, which will serve as a secure and authoritative repository of original registered records.

However, members of the Karnataka State Stamps and Registration Department Authorised Licensed Document Writers' Union raised concerns over the implementation. They said the paperless registration initiative, piloted in Chamarajanagar district from April 30, has removed the requirement for physical signatures of buyers, sellers, witnesses and document writers, replacing them with one-time password (OTP)-based authentication and digital signatures of revenue officials.

The shift to fully digital property registration without document writer access has raised alarms over security, accountability, and employment, with unions warning of protests if government ignores their key demands

"We have been appealing to the revenue authorities to facilitate login for document writers on par with neighbouring states such as Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It makes the document writers responsible for any mistakes in the document and also provides livelihood for thousands of document writers across the state. Under the new system, the buyers will not get the original documents of the properties they bought. We are not seeking any financial help from the government. We are demanding to continue the system of document verification by the licensed document writers on par with other states in the country", said Naveen Kumar N, Vice President, Karnataka State Stamps and Registration Department Authorised Licensed Documents Writers' Union.

Demanding that authorities facilitate a login system for licensed document writers, Dharmaraj V Ekakkote said the union members have already submitted representations to revenue authorities but no action has been taken so far.

"We are planning to meet the higher authorities and Revenue Minister to request them to provide facilities for licensed document writers on par with neighbouring states. We will organise a massive protest at Freedom Park if the authorities fail to meet our demands," Dharmaraj said.

Pre-monsoon showers likely across Karnataka

As per a report by the India Meteorological Department, Karnataka is expected to receive rainfall from May 3 to May 9. According to the report, the forecast indicates pre-monsoon showers affecting coastal and interior regions, bringing relief from the scorching heat. The southern districts of Karnataka will receive light to moderate rainfall, while some isolated areas might experience heavy rainfall. Officials have warned the public about lightning, thunderstorms, and gusty winds during this period. The rainfall activity is attributed to changing wind patterns and moisture incursion. The week will witness fluctuating weather conditions, and authorities have advised the public to remain cautious. Those living in areas prone to waterlogging are advised to plan travel accordingly. **— BMB**

Guest lecturers gain three year security

In a significant relief measure, the state government has decided to support guest lecturers working in government first grade colleges who have not cleared UGC eligibility norms, by offering them positions as "Academic Coordinators" for a period of three years. Announcing the decision, Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said that while rules mandate the removal of those without UGC qualifications, the government has taken a humanitarian approach to safeguard livelihoods. A total of 3,853 guest lecturers who have put in at least five years of service will be accommodated across government degree colleges, engineering colleges and polytechnics. Those unwilling to take up the new role will receive a one-time compensation of ₹5 lakh. Academic Coordinators will manage academic support systems such as laboratories, libraries, IT services, LMS, examinations, and student academic and counselling support, based on their subject expertise. **— BMB**

Forged PhDs expose major academic fraud

A startling fraud involving fake PhD degrees has come to light in Karnataka, revealing that even authenticity certificates meant to verify academic credentials were fabricated. The Department of Collegiate Education had introduced a standard procedure and appointed nodal officers to verify 13 key documents, including PhD credentials, by cross-checking them with respective universities. However, more than 400 guest lecturers resigned soon after the verification process began, raising suspicion among officials. Authorities later found that letters sent by nodal officers to universities for verification were allegedly intercepted by a fake PhD network. Instead of reaching the universities, these requests were diverted, and forged authenticity certificates were sent back, falsely validating the degrees. **— BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Work war

At a May Day event at the KPCC office recently, MLC BK Hariprasad took a sharp dig at Narayana Murthy over his remarks on a 75-hour work week. Stressing for an 8-hour workday, Hariprasad questioned the idea of stretching work to 12 hours a day, asking if workers are meant to live like machines. He went on to say such statements ignore the ground realities of workers who are already struggling with job pressure, low wages and rising living costs.

Rock moment

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, popularly known as "Bande" and often called "Kanakapurada Bande" for his strongman image in his home turf, had a symbolic moment recently. During the inauguration of the KR Market underground parking facility, he was presented with a rock memento, neatly tying into his well-known nickname. The gesture drew smiles and light moments at the event, reflecting how the moniker has become closely associated with his political identity and public persona.

Fate matters

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, who has missed out on the Chief Minister's post on multiple occasions in the past, recently remarked that while the party high command may favour his elevation, "fate too has a role to play." Reacting to Home Minister G Parameshwara's statement that he would make a good Chief Minister, Kharge said in Kalaburagi that he has dedicated several years to the party. He added that Sonia Gandhi's role remains crucial in such key decisions. Parameshwara had earlier noted that Kharge is a senior leader and would be welcomed if he took on the Chief Minister's role.

Duty calls

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's recent city rounds, packed with inaugurations and foundation ceremonies, were marked by a mix of emotion and tense moments. Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya later shared that even while moving between events, Shivakumar received repeated calls from home, only to reveal his daughter was in labour and he was about to become a grandfather. Despite the deeply personal moment, he continued to attend all scheduled programmes, reflecting how public duty often takes precedence even during life's most significant family milestones.

Middle finger row

Labour Minister Santosh Lad sparked controversy by showing his middle finger and strongly criticising former US President Donald Trump during a press interaction in Sandur, after alleging that Trump had insulted India by calling it a "hell." Lad said such remarks against the country and its leadership were unacceptable, asserted that India would remain united, and expressed his anger openly while condemning the comments. He also stated that no foreign leader has the right to make derogatory remarks about India, stressing that such statements hurt national sentiment. **— Sridhar Vivan**

BM SIMPLY PUT

Feeling the pinch in your monthly budget? Blame the Middle East conflict and global oil shock

Have you noticed your household expenses quietly rising over the past few weeks? From cooking oil to appliances, daily essentials are costing more while pack sizes shrink. Global tensions, especially involving the US, Iran and Israel, are now directly impacting your wallet.

Why has my household budget suddenly increased?
The ongoing conflict in the Middle East, involving countries like the US, Iran and Israel, has disrupted global supply chains and pushed up crude oil prices. This has increased the cost of transportation, manufacturing and imports, leading to a rise in prices of essential goods across categories, from food to household products, thereby increasing overall daily expenses for families.

Are companies increasing prices directly?
Not always. Many companies are avoiding direct price hikes fearing a drop in demand. Instead, they are reducing the quantity in packages. For instance, edible oil packs that were earlier sold in 910 ml quantities are now being reduced to 750 ml while maintaining similar price points, effectively increasing the cost per unit for consumers.

Which essential items have become more expensive?
Edible oil prices have already risen by over 7 per cent. Similarly, daily-use items such as soap, toothpaste and biscuits are being sold in smaller packs. In textiles, production costs have increased by 20–35 per cent, while paint manufacturing costs have risen by 20–25 per cent, leading to price increases of around 2–5 per cent with further hikes expected.

What is causing such a sharp rise in production costs?
Crude oil prices have crossed $100 per barrel again due to disruptions in supply following failed peace talks between Iran and the United States. This has led to shortages in petrochemical-based raw materials such as synthetic rubber, aluminium, polypropylene and other chemicals, increasing manufacturing costs across sectors.

How are household appliances being affected?
The cost of manufacturing appliances like washing machines, refrigerators, fans and LED products has increased by 10–15 per cent. Nearly 70 per cent of this additional burden is being passed on to consumers, resulting in noticeable price hikes in the market.

Are supply chain issues still a problem?
Yes, despite efforts by the central government to stabilise imports, supply chain disruptions continue. Delays in importing critical materials and components are affecting production timelines and costs, further adding to inflationary pressures.

What does this mean for consumer demand?
Companies are cautious about raising prices sharply as it could reduce demand. This is why many are choosing to shrink pack sizes instead, balancing cost pressures while maintaining sales volumes.

Is the impact limited to prices, or is it affecting poverty too?
The impact goes beyond inflation. According to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, around 25 lakh people in India could be pushed into poverty due to rising costs. Globally, about 88 lakh people have already slipped towards poverty due to the conflict.

How has poverty changed in India recently?
India's poverty rate has increased from 23.9 per cent to 24.2 per cent since the conflict began. In absolute numbers, the number of poor people has risen from 35.15 crore before February 28 to 35.40 crore by April 10, reflecting the economic strain on vulnerable populations.

How is India's trade being affected?
India has around $48 billion in trade with West Asia, including 14 per cent exports and 20.9 per cent imports. The conflict has disrupted this trade, affecting exports such as basmati rice, tea, jewellery and precious stones, and hitting informal sector workers who make up nearly 90 per cent of this workforce.

Is agriculture also at risk?
Yes. Around 45 per cent of India's fertiliser supply comes from Gulf countries. Due to supply disruptions and LNG shortages, domestic urea production has declined. With an annual requirement of about 6.114 million tonnes during the monsoon season, there is a real risk of fertiliser shortages impacting agriculture.

What about small businesses and employment?
Small and medium enterprises are under stress due to rising input costs, supply disruptions and cancelled export orders. This has already led to job losses in the MSME sector, affecting livelihoods across industries like food processing, construction materials and jewellery.

Are healthcare costs also expected to rise?
Yes. Medical equipment costs are expected to increase by up to 50 per cent, while medicine prices may rise by 10–15 per cent, adding further pressure on household budgets.

What is the overall outlook for the economy and households?
If the conflict continues, inflationary pressures could intensify, supply chains may remain disrupted, and more people could slip into poverty. The situation highlights how global geopolitical tensions are directly impacting everyday life and financial stability in India.

IPL 2026 Festival of cricket

Chakravarthy, Narine shine as KKR snap SRH's 5-match winning streak

A resurgent Varun Chakravarthy and milestone man Sunil Narine were instrumental in Kolkata Knight Riders' comprehensive seven-wicket victory that snapped Sunrisers Hyderabad's five-match winning streak in the Indian Premier League, on Sunday.

After Chakravarthy (3/36) and Narine (2/31) played major roles in bowling out SRH for 165 in 19 overs, KKR chased down the target with 10 balls to spare to notch their third win on the trot.

This was leg-spinner Chakravarthy's fourth successive match in which he took at least two wickets while veteran off-spinner Narine joined an exclusive three-member 200-wicket club in the IPL.

Narine joined pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (215 from 199 matches) and spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (228 from 182 matches) in the elite group.

Earlier, opting to bat, SRH were in their usual menacing batting form, reaching 77 for 1 after powerplay and 107 for 2 at the halfway mark. But they collapsed spectacularly in the second half of their innings, losing nine wickets in 10 overs for the addition of 60 runs. **–PTI**

KKR won the match against SRH on Sunday by 7 wickets

Today's battle
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Holder, Rabada, Siraj stop Punjab in its tracks

Gujarat Titans' (GT) Jason Holder, Kagiso Rabada, and Mohammed Siraj shone against the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 table-toppers as the Subman Gill-led side restricted PBKS to 163/9 in 20 overs in their match on Sunday at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

While Holder claimed four wickets, Rabada and Siraj picked up two each, and despite a 79-run partnership between Marcus Stoinis and Suryansh Shedge, PBKS were restricted to their lowest first-innings total of the season.

Gujarat Titans skipper, Shubman Gill, won the toss and opted to bowl first. Pacer Mohammed Siraj proved Gill's decision right immediately as the Punjab Kings' innings got off to a disastrous start.

Mohammed Siraj (2/28 in 4 overs) produced a masterclass in the very first over. Siraj struck with his second delivery, dismissing Priyansh Arya (2), who sliced a ball straight to backward point. Before the Kings could catch their breath, Siraj struck again on the very next ball, as Cooper Connolly fell for a golden duck after an inside edge carried to the wicketkeeper.

Reduced to 2/2 within the first few minutes of the game, PBKS were immediately pushed into a defensive shell. **–ANI**

Gujarat Titans' Jason Holder celebrates the wicket of Punjab Kings' Skipper Shreyas Iyer

Verify, cross-check before you pay

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

engineer from Bengaluru, who was allegedly cheated of ₹11.5 lakh after falling victim to a fake travel page on Facebook. In her complaint, the victim stated that she came across a page titled "Jetha Iccha Setha Jai Travels and Events" while browsing for a Europe trip.

She contacted the numbers listed on the page to enquire about tour packages. The accused allegedly shared detailed itineraries and upon sensing her interest, the fraudsters began contacting her from multiple phone numbers.

They convinced her to transfer 12.77 lakh in several transactions, claiming the payments were required for visa processing, bookings, and other travel-related expenses.

After receiving the full amount, the suspects allegedly informed her that the trip had been cancelled. When she demanded a refund, they returned only ₹1.18 lakh and refused to repay the remaining amount. Based on the complaint, the North East Cybercrime Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation, officials said.

Chetan Anand said this was not an isolated case. He shared another instance when a person who had travelled abroad for work after being provided two weeks of accommodation by the company later had to find alternative housing. The victim paid deposits for a property found online, but upon visiting the location, discovered that no such property existed and a case had to be registered.

"While booking a hotel or checking accommodation, you must verify the location on Google Maps. There is no reason a genuine property should not appear on it. Legitimate businesses usually provide accurate addresses and locations to improve visibility, which can be easily verified online," he explained.

Travellers can use Street View to confirm whether the building actually exists and matches the images provided by the hotel or booking platform.

"It is also important to check the surrounding area to ensure the location aligns with what has been advertised, as misleading listings often place properties far from the claimed spot. Additionally, users should look at the 'image capture date' on Street View to verify that the property existed at the time of the latest update.

Always check the "From Visitors" section in the photo gallery instead of relying only on professional images, as user-uploaded photos are more likely to reveal discrepancies," he added.

Chetan Anand noted that payment delays can sometimes occur. He advised that once a payment is made, people should avoid transferring money again immediately. Instead, they should wait at least 24 hours and, if there is a claim of non-receipt, insist on proof such as a bank statement before making any further payment.

In another recent case the Mysuru Cyber Economic and Narcotics Crime Police Station registered an FIR on March 27 after cybercriminals allegedly impersonated the website of The Windflower Resorts and Spa and cheated customers of ₹6 lakh.

The complaint by Aiyappa Alamanda stated that fraudsters created fake websites, emails, and contact details, even listing them on Google Business. Police said at least eight customers were duped, with scammers pressuring them into immediate UPI payments by falsely claiming limited room availability during peak summer.

Police officials have advised travellers to verify the website URL before making bookings, avoid heavy discounts or unrealistic offers, and never make payments through unknown links or QR codes. They also recommend booking only through trusted platforms and carefully checking reviews, ratings, and the hotel's contact details before proceeding.

Satellite mission: ISRO lauds B'luru startup

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday congratulated Bengaluru-based space startup GalaxEye on the successful launch of its Mission Drishti, calling it a "significant milestone in India's space journey" and highlighting it as a key step in strengthening the country's private space ecosystem.

In a post on X, ISRO said, "Congratulations to GalaxEye on the successful launch of Mission Drishti, A significant milestone in India's space journey, with the world's first OptoSAR satellite and India's largest privately built satellite, advancing all-weather Earth observation capabilities."

Extending its wishes, ISRO said, "Best wishes to the team at @GalaxEye for continued success in strengthening the nation's space ecosystem and advancing cutting-edge technology." **ANI**

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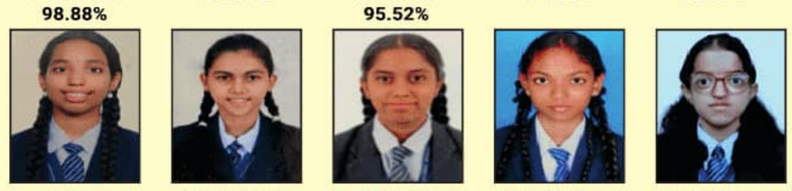
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Access to healthcare limited, but work puts health at risk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the falling of a significant amount of leaves from trees and continues to happen through monsoon.

From a labour rights perspective, concerns have been raised about working conditions and lack of institutional support. À labour rights activist said the situation reflects a long-standing pattern of undervaluing sanitation workers. "Pourakarmikas are treated as an emergency workforce without being given the protections that such roles demand.

They are working in hazardous conditions — handling debris, stagnant water, and sometimes even live electrical risks—without adequate safety gear or compensation," he said.

He further pointed out that the absence of structured overtime policies adds to the strain. "There is a clear gap between the expectations placed on workers and what they are legally entitled to. If the city depends on them during crises, then their rights, including overtime pay, insurance, and rest periods, must be non-negotiable," he added.

Another labour researcher noted that repeated exposure to such demanding conditions takes a toll on workers' health. "Extended hours in unsanitary and waterlogged environments increase the risk of infections and long-term health issues. Yet, access to healthcare and preventive measures for these workers remains limited," she said. "If resilience is the goal, then it must begin with safeguarding the people who keep the city functioning."

Urban planning experts have also pointed to systemic shortcomings in the city's preparedness. An urban resilience specialist, said the recurring nature of such crises reflects deeper structural issues. "Bengaluru's drainage and tree management systems are not aligned with the realities of increasingly intense weather events. Without decentralised rapid response teams and better coordination between departments, cleanup operations will continue to lag," he observed.

Staff shortage slows tree clearance

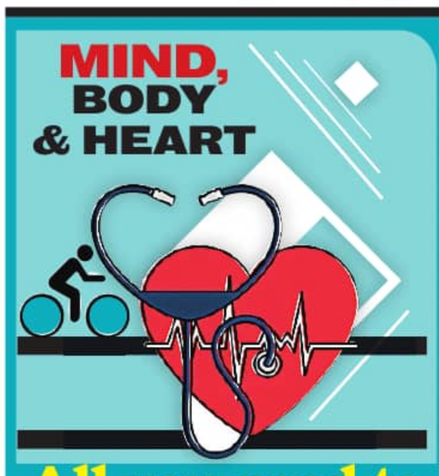
Following heavy rains and strong winds, more than 460 fallen trees and over 1,200 branches are yet to be cleared in Bengaluru, with the GBA Forest Department facing an acute staff shortage. To manage the situation, tree-cutting teams have been brought in from Sakleshpur.

The department currently has 13 officials and operates 33 canopy management teams, each with eight contract workers. However, the large-scale damage in a single day has made clearance operations difficult with limited manpower. Efforts to bring additional workers from other districts are also being affected due to local festivals, weddings and consecutive holidays.

The worst-affected areas are in the central, south and west zones of the city, where weaker tree species have fallen in large numbers. Several decades-old trees have also been uprooted, partly due to weakened roots caused by construction activities.

A senior official said that most of the fallen trees have already been cleared as more workers are being engaged, though local labourers are demanding up to ₹50,000 per tree for clearance. The department is working to secure services within approved rates and is being supported by engineering teams, the fire department, NGOs and public representatives.

A new tender has been floated for additional canopy management services, and once finalised, clearance work is expected to speed up.



All you need to know about...

Magnesium in body

Foods with high magnesium
Foods that are highest in magnesium include Pumpkin Seeds, Almonds, Spinach, Black Beans, Peanuts, Soy Milk, Edamame, Avocado, Dark Chocolate, and Bananas.

What happens if I don't get enough magnesium?
Magnesium deficiency can lead to various symptoms and health issues, including muscle weakness and cramps, fatigue, nausea, abnormal heart rhythms, tingling or numbness, mood swings, and loss of appetite. It's crucial to meet daily magnesium requirements for overall health and well-being.

Can you overdose on magnesium from food?
It's rare to overdose on magnesium from dietary sources alone, as excess magnesium from food is typically excreted by the kidneys. However, excessive magnesium intake from supplements can lead to toxicity, causing symptoms such as nausea, weakness, low blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, difficulty breathing, and confusion.

What are the health benefits of magnesium?
Magnesium plays a crucial role in various bodily functions, including muscle and nerve function, energy production, bone health, and the regulation of blood pressure. It also contributes to the synthesis of DNA, RNA, and proteins. Adequate magnesium intake is associated with cardiovascular health, improved mood, and better bone density.

Signs of low magnesium
Low magnesium levels can cause muscle cramps, weakness, fatigue, numbness, irregular heartbeat, poor sleep, and mood changes like anxiety or irritability.

What organ is most affected by magnesium?
Magnesium plays a crucial role in the proper functioning of the heart, muscles, and brain.

How can I raise my magnesium levels quickly?
To quickly boost magnesium levels, consume magnesium-rich foods such as nuts, seeds, leafy green vegetables, whole grains, and dark chocolate.

'Just looping you in'

Why letting AI write our emails might actually create more work

I hope this article finds you well.

Did that make you cringe, ever so slightly? In the decades since the very first email was sent in 1971, the technology has become the quiet infrastructure of white-collar work.

Email came with the promise of efficiency, clarity and less friction in organisational communication. Instead, for many, it has morphed into something else: always there, near impossible to escape and sometimes simply overwhelming.

Right now, something is shifting again. The rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, such as ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot, is increasingly allowing people to offload the repetitive routines of tending one's inbox -- drafting, summarising and replying.

My colleagues in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision Making & Society found 45.6 per cent of Australians have recently used a generative AI tool, 82.6 per cent of those using it for text generation. A healthy chunk of that use likely includes email.

So, what happens if we end up fully automating one of the staples of the white-collar daily grind? Will AI technologies reduce some of the friction, or generate new forms of it? Dare I ask -- are we actually about to get more email?

Why the printer isn't dead yet

Soon after the advent of email, some voices in the business world heralded the coming end of paper use in the office. That didn't happen. If you work in an office today, there's a good chance you still have a printer.

In their 2001 book, The Myth of the Paperless Office, Abigail Sellen and Richard Harper show how digital tools rarely eliminate older forms of work. Instead, they reshape them.

Sellen and Harper show how paper use didn't disappear with the rise of email and other digital communication tools; in many cases, it intensified. The takeaway isn't that offices failed to modernise, but rather that work reorganised around what these new tools could do.

In this case, paper persisted not only out of habit, but because of what it affords: it is easy to annotate, spread out, carry and view at a glance. This was all too clunky (or impossible) to perform via the digital alternatives.

At the same time, email and digitisation dramatically lowered the cost of producing and distributing communication. It was far easier to send more messages, to more people, more often.

> **Like earlier waves of workplace tech, AI is less likely to replace existing communication practices than to intensify them**

Circling back to today

Will AI be different? If early signs are anything to go by, the answer is: not in the way we might hope.

Like earlier waves of workplace technology, AI is less likely to replace existing communication practices than to intensify them, but at least it might come with better grammar and a suspiciously upbeat tone.

Some new AI tools offer to manage your inbox entirely, feeding into broader privacy concerns about the technology.

At this moment, what a lot of these products seem to offer is not an escape from email, but a smoothing of its rough edges. Workers are using AI to soften otherwise blunt requests, modify their tone or expand what might otherwise be considered too brief a response.

Rather than removing the need to communicate, these tools offer pathways to make a delicate performance easier.

What email is actually for

Email, like many forms of communication, is as much about maintaining everyday relationships as it is about the transfer of information.

At work, it's often about signalling competence, responsiveness, collegiality and authority. "Just looping someone in" or "circling back" are all part of our absurd office vocabulary, a shared dialect that helps us navigate hierarchy, soften demands and keep things moving -- all without saying what we really think.

If AI lowers the effort required to produce these signals, it won't necessarily reduce their importance, but it could unsettle things in rather odd ways.

If more people use AI to draft emails they don't particularly want to write, we end up with a game of bureaucratic "mime": everyone performing sincerity and quietly outsourcing it, and no one entirely sure how much of their inbox was actually written by a human.

The labour of email was never just about crafting sentences. It's always been the scanning, the sorting and the deciding. AI doesn't remove this burden. If anything, it amplifies it.

When everything arrives polished, everything looks important. That points to a deeper question for the future of work: if AI can perform responsiveness, why are we generating so many situations that still require it?

Looking forward

What would a workplace look like if email wasn't the default solution to every coordination problem? Perhaps fewer performative check-ins, "just touching base", "looping you in" or "following up on the below". More clearer expectations about what actually requires a response, and what doesn't.

Email, like paper, is likely to persist for good reasons. It is simple, flexible and universal. It allows things to be deferred, revisited, forwarded and quietly ignored.

But if AI is going to change any of this, my hope is that it makes visible how much of this is ritual, how much is habit, and how much has long been unnecessary.

And if the machines are happy to keep saying "hope this finds you well" to each other, we might finally have permission to stop.

(By Daniel Angus, Queensland University of Technology, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Let your skin keep cool this summer

According to celebrity skin coach Bhuvaneshwari Jadeja, "during summer, the skin faces several challenges from tanning and dryness to clogged pores and breakouts." Constant sun exposure, sweat, and dehydration can leave your skin looking dull and tired. She explains that "by following a proper skincare routine and incorporating natural remedies, you can keep your skin fresh, hydrated, and glowing," especially during peak heat.
Must-Have Natural Ingredients
Some ingredients stand out for their cooling, soothing, and hydrating properties making them essential for your summer routine. Bhuvaneshwari shares a list of ingredients that are natural and easy to source and use.

Aloe Vera: It is a soothing agent that reduces inflammation, redness, and treats sunburn. It's perfect for calming irritated skin after sun exposure.
Cucumber: It is rich in water and antioxidants, cucumber helps reduce puffiness while instantly cooling the skin. It's ideal for tired, overheated skin.

Rose Water: It hydrates your skin and helps reduce oil. It works well as a natural toner that refreshes without clogging pores.
Rice Water: It is known for its gentle cleansing properties, rice water helps brighten the skin while removing dirt and impurities.
Green Tea: It acts as a great natural toner that fights inflammation and works as an antioxidant, making it perfect for acne-prone or sensitive skin.

Sandalwood: It has cooling properties that help reduce acne and soothe irritated skin during hot weather.

– Femina

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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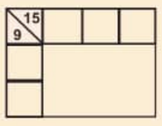
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

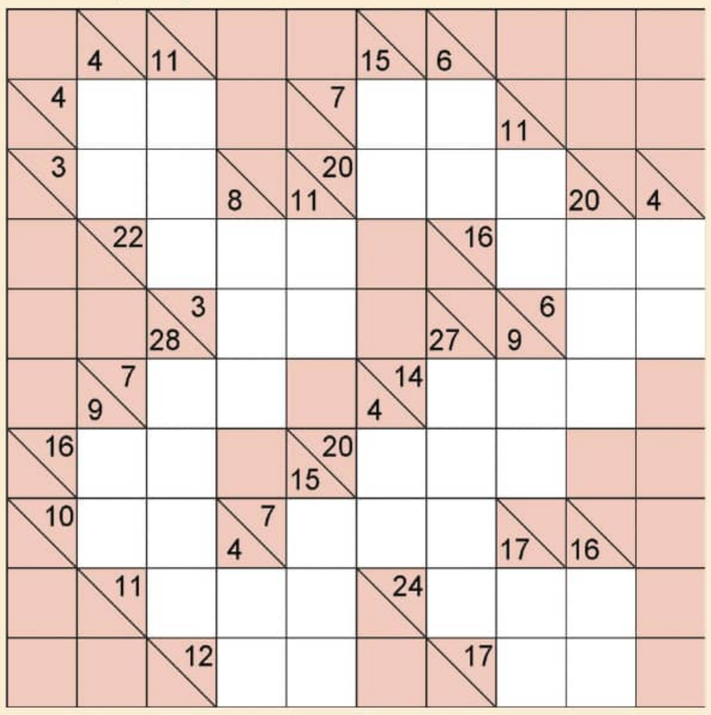
5^0 + 5^1 × 5^0 + 5^0! ÷ 5^0 = ?

Kakuro

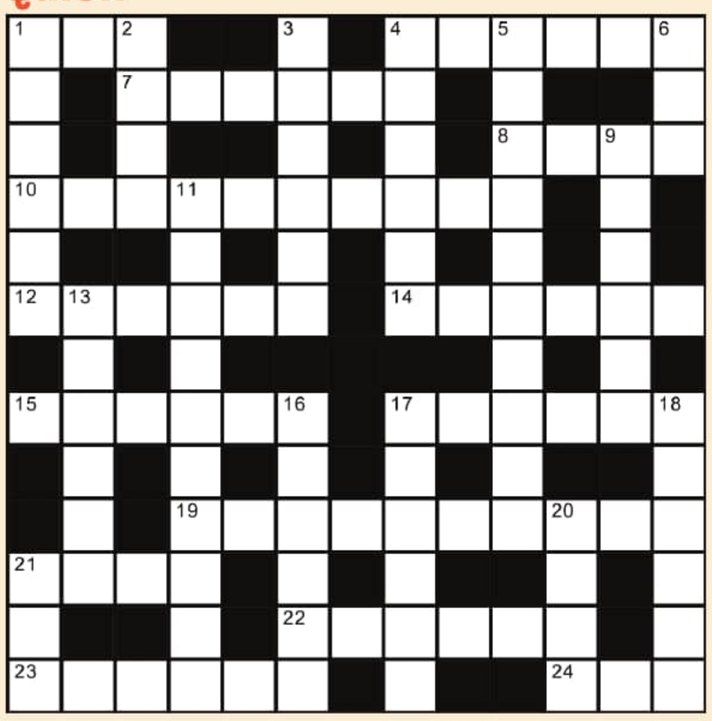
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 In what way (3)
4 Spookier (6)
7 Capital of Manipur (6)
8 Golden Fleece ship (4)
10 Generous, liberal (4-6)
12 A type of whisky (6)
14 Female sibling (6)
15 Simpler (6)
17 Criminal (6)
19 Magadi chieftain who founded Bangalore (5,5)
21 Type of TV input (4)
22 Istanbul inn–"a timer" changed? (6)
23 Allowance or leeway (6)
24 Attila was one (3)

DOWN

1 Plumed birds (6)
2 Far and ___ : over a long area? (4)
3 Utterly defeat (6)
4 Avoids, escapes (6)
5 Race starter's three-word utterance (5,3,2)
6 Greek letter (3)
9 Famous Swiss city (6)
11 Petty criticism (3-7)
13 Stopped (6)
16 Stay back, survive or linger (6)
17 __ __ show : a solo effort ? (3-3)
18 Gun or knife (6)
20 Accompanying (4)
21 Clothing edge (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS W

BQ JWIQ PBS QWVG WUH SUQ PSUCFQ GS PJWP BQ BSFYH YDGPQU XSVQ WUH PWYR YQGG.

Linemaro

If you were a fruit you'd be a fineapple.

Mindchow

Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work

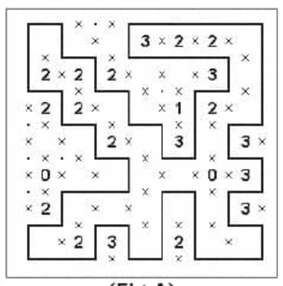
Joke of the day

What animal cheats at exams? The cheetah!

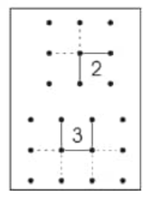
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

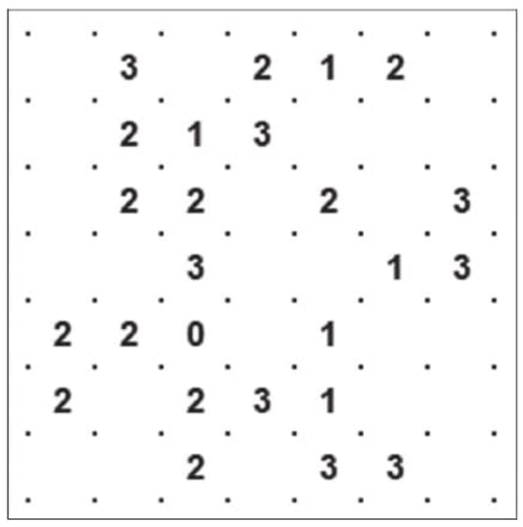


(Fig B) Not Allowed

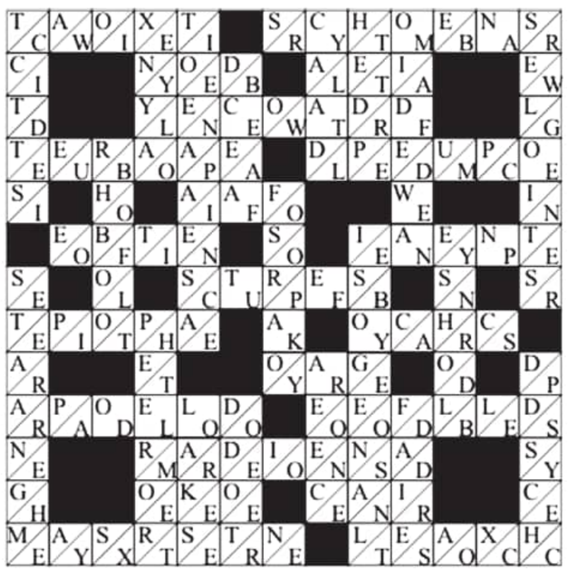
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



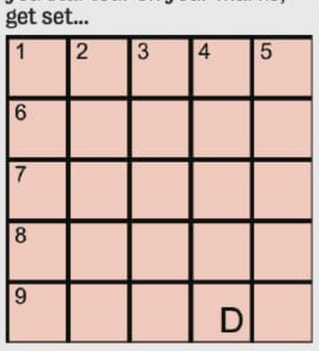
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

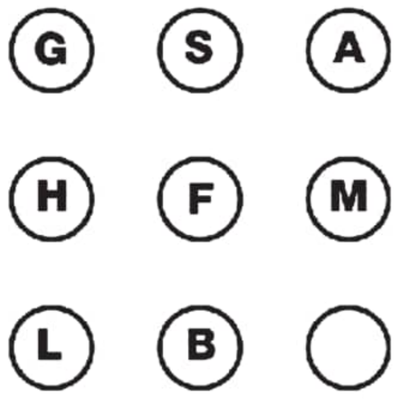
1 Haw ad; 6 RY ire; 7 Reeds; 8 Alone; 9 Dry at

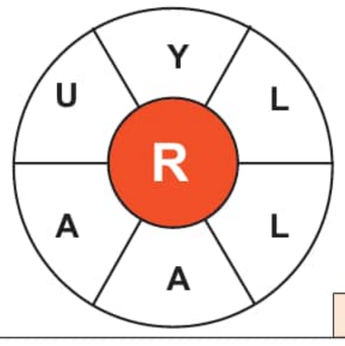
DOWN

1 Tared; 2 He nay; 3 Rad or; 4 Wilde; 5 Years

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the blank and completes the puzzle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2	6					4	
			1	2		3	5	
8		1				9		
2		8		5				
			9		2			
				3		4		6
		7				6		4
	3	9		1	4			
	4					8	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5
3 9 5 4

Medium = 8
5 6 7 1

Hard = 12
2 5 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

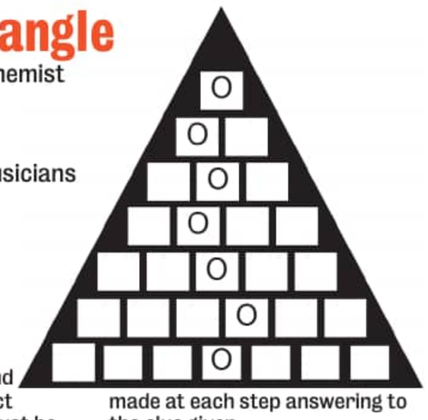
Differences: 1. Box is different. 2. Table is longer. 3. Glass is added. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Cabinet door is ajar. 6. Refrigerator handle is lower.

Riddler

Given a corked bottle with only a penny inside, how can you remove the penny without pulling out the cork, breaking the bottle and leaving the cork intact?

Alpha triangle

1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Off. Comm.
3 Bird of myth
4 Coconut fiber
5 Ecclesiastical musicians
6 Courageous
7 Rich sweet roll

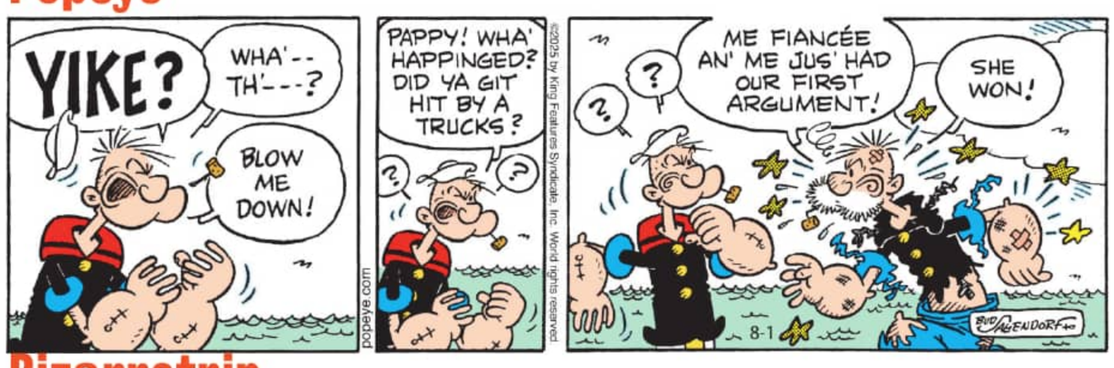


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YIKE?
WHA'--TH'---?
BLOW ME DOWN!
PAPPY! WHA' HAPPINGED? DID YA GIT HIT BY A TRUCKS?
ME FIANCÉE AN' ME JUS' HAD OUR FIRST ARGUMENT!
SHE WON!
8-1
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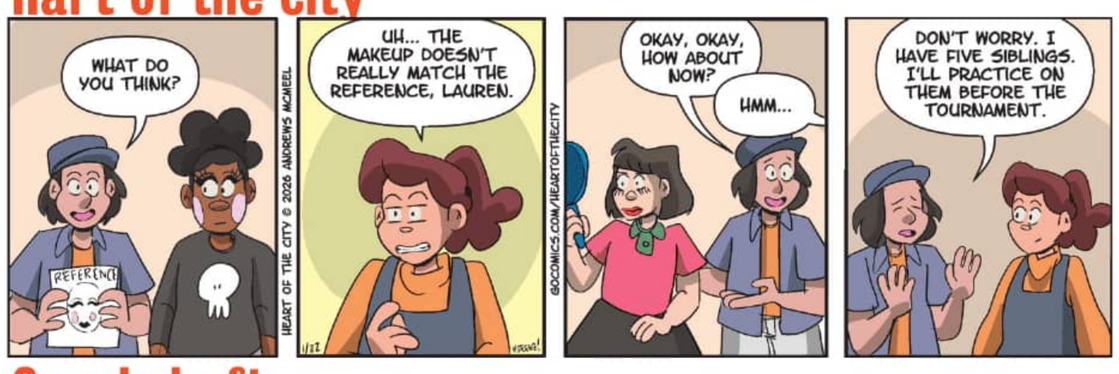
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

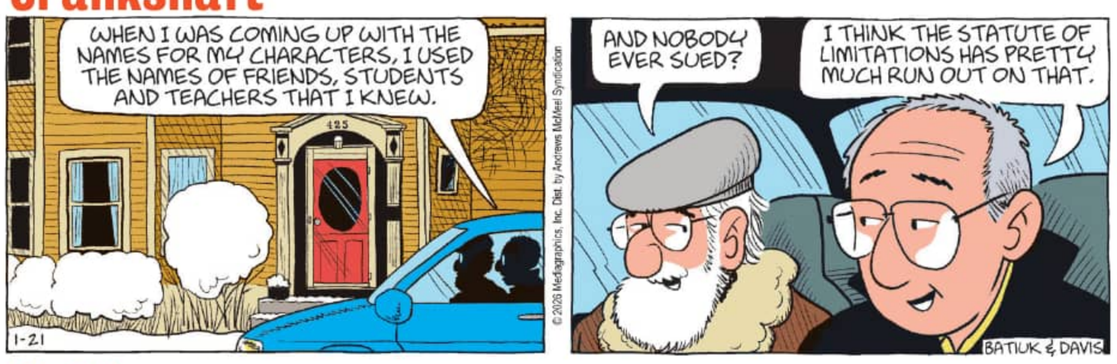
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & PIRARO
1·21·26
My study shows that we'd get away with more heists if we didn't taunt Batman with clues in advance.
THE RIDDLER'S NEW HENCHMAN, THE REALIST
©2026 BIZARRO SYNDICATE

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
REFERENCE
UH... THE MAKEUP DOESN'T REALLY MATCH THE REFERENCE, LAUREN.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
OKAY, OKAY, HOW ABOUT NOW?
HMM...
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
DON'T WORRY. I HAVE FIVE SIBLINGS. I'LL PRACTICE ON THEM BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT.

Crankshaft


WHEN I WAS COMING UP WITH THE NAMES FOR MY CHARACTERS, I USED THE NAMES OF FRIENDS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS THAT I KNEW.
425
1-21
AND NOBODY EVER SUED?
I THINK THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAS PRETTY MUCH RUN OUT ON THAT.
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Discipline and structure define your journey this year. You are being called to organize your life with precision and focus. Hard work pays off in the form of a major certification or professional milestone. Stay grounded when others around you seem chaotic. Your ability to remain calm under pressure will make you an invaluable asset in your current workplace.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today feels lighthearted and playful, making it perfect for mental games, puzzles, or reading. Enjoy relaxing, socializing with friends, attending sports events, or spending time engaging with children and fun activities.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Take things easy today and enjoy comfort at home. Invite loved ones over, as you naturally create warmth. Quiet research, especially about property, could be rewarding. Enjoy community activities nearby.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

You'll enjoy lively conversations today, especially with younger people. Socializing with siblings, neighbours, or relatives brings joy. Short trips appeal, and it's a great time to learn, teach, and exchange ideas.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Financially, you have sharp ideas today that could improve your income or career prospects. Trust your instincts, as success is possible. You'll also make a strong impression on authority figures.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Today encourages relaxation and ease, with positive, warm energy surrounding you. Your interactions feel friendly and generous. Remember, what you give returns to you, so extend kindness and support others.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

You'll enjoy connecting with friends and groups today, preferring relaxed conversations over ambition. Social interactions flow easily, though discussions about shared resources or responsibilities may arise during your interactions.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Today is ideal for socializing and connecting with friends or groups. Conversations, especially with younger people, feel inspiring. Everyone is eager to learn, exchange ideas, and explore meaningful insights together.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You make a strong, positive impression today, appearing confident and successful to others. Use this advantage to pursue your goals, as people are more likely to respond favourably to your requests.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Travel opportunities or interactions with people from different cultures may excite you today. Socializing feels enriching, and sharing ideas brings joy. Time spent with younger individuals or children is especially fulfilling.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Conversations about home or family plans go smoothly today, making it a great time to connect domestically. Activities involving pets or health also uplift you, bringing a sense of optimism.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

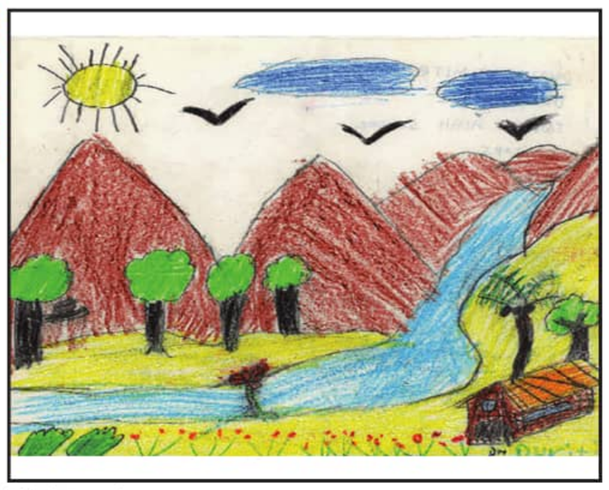
You're filled with optimism and forward-thinking ideas today. Communication skills are strong, especially in creative or professional fields. Your enthusiasm is contagious, making others receptive to your thoughts and suggestions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

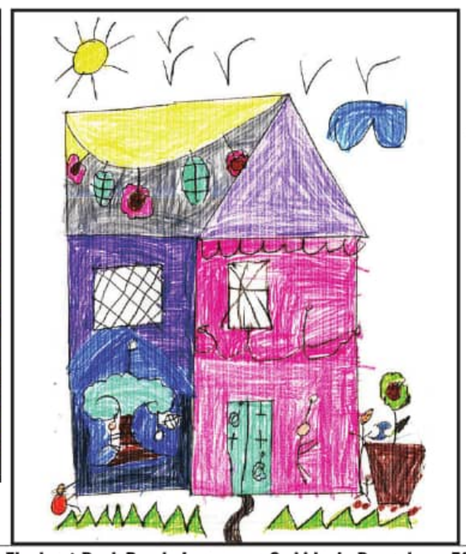
Relaxation at home feels especially appealing today, but you're also full of practical ideas about earning money or improving health. Sharing knowledge in these areas could be both rewarding and effective.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Dhirti, Bengaluru



Yashswani, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 1+5x1+5c1
= 1+5+5
= 11

BULL'S EYE
allay, ally, aural, AURALLY, rally

STRIKE OUT

T	W	I	X	T	S	C	H	M	E	A	R			
I		Y	O	B		L	E	A		E				
D		L	E	E	W	A	R	D		L				
E	U	R	O	P	E		D	E	D	U	C	E		
S	O		I	F	F		E		E		N			
O	B	I	E		O	I	N	E	P	T		S		
S	O		C	U	R	E	S		N		S			
T	I	T	H	E		K		O	A	R	S			
R		E		Y	A	G		O		P				
A	P	O	L	L	O		O	O	D	L	E	S		
N		M	A	D	O	N	N	A			Y			
G		E	K	E		E	A	R			C			
E	A	S	T	E	R	N		L	E	A	C	H		

FAST FIVE

D	H	A	W	A
E	Y	R	I	R
R	E	D	E	S
A	N	O	L	E
T	A	R	D	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
We have two ears and one tongue so that we would listen more and talk less.

QUICK

M	A	R	G	I	N		N		H	U	N			
E			N		I	M	A	R	E	T		O		
H	D	M	I		A		M		I		P			
E		K	E	M	P	E	G	O	W	D	A			
S		C		E		N		G			E			
E	A	S	I	E	R		O	U	T	L	A	W		
E		P				E			V					
S	C	O	T	C	H		S	I	S	T	E	R		
N		I		S		E		Y		N				
O	P	E	N	H	A	N	D	E	D		E			
R		D		R		U		A	R	G	O			
E	I	M	P	H	A	L		E			H			
H	O	W		T		E	E	R	I	E	R			

MENSA PUZZLE
M. Taking the numerical value of the letters each row and column adds up to 27.

RIDDLER
Push the cork into the bottle, then shake the penny out.

SUDOKU

3	2	6	5	8	9	1	4	7
7	9	4	1	2	6	3	5	8
8	5	1	3	4	7	9	6	2
2	6	8	4	5	1	7	9	3
4	7	3	9	6	2	5	8	1
9	1	5	7	3	8	4	2	6
5	8	7	2	9	3	6	1	4
6	3	9	8	1	4	2	7	5
1	4	2	6	7	5	8	3	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, OC, Roe, Coir, Choir, Heroic, Brioche.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 9 – 5 – 3 = 5
Medium
6 + 7 x 1 – 5 = 8
Hard
7 + 2 – 5 x 3 = 12

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 19, Issue No 087 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

From Sandalwood to Cannes

Debutante director Karun Kshiti Suvarna is all set to represent Karnataka at World Woman Cannes Agenda 2026 during the 79th Cannes Film Festival scheduled to be held from May 12 to 15.

Survarna debuts as an independent director with bilingual movie September 21 in which Priyanka Upendra plays the lead that is scheduled for a theatrical release on May 22.

The 22-year-old said that she considers it as a big opportunity.

She made a short film - Hide and Seek - which was screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2023 and she won Best Female Debut Director Award at Dada Saheb Phalke Awards in 2024.

Huge sets for dance sequence

The makers of 666: Operation Dream Theater have erected huge sets for a dance sequence at Kanteerava Studios. Director Hemanth M Rao shared a few behind-the-scenes pictures, captioned "Retro Heart, Disco Soul," giving a hint of what is in store for the audience.

Choreographer Imran Sardariya said, "On my first collaboration with director Hemanth M Rao, I must say I've always been a fan of his vision and the way he presents his actors and the stories he weaves for his characters. His films have always been organic and relatable."

Sardariya said that to choreograph for Charan Raj's music is a great experience. About this set, art director Vishwas Kashyap said, "The space draws inspiration from classical theatre design."

Tough climb

Konkana shares it is still tough for women to land big roles

After 25 years in the industry, Konkona Sen Sharma shared that it still hasn't become easier for women to land more substantial roles.

In an interview with News18 she said, "In some ways, I think, to a certain extent, perhaps in smaller budget films or OTT films, to a certain extent, yes. But if you follow the money (laughs), then you will see that larger films will inevitably have larger-than-life male heroes." She added that this trend is not a recent development but something that has persisted over the years. "I don't think this is necessarily a problem of today, but I think it's kind of been like this for many, many years. Every year, you will find a handful of interesting films, films that don't follow trends or a certain formula, but those kinds of films are few and far between."

The actress credited streaming platforms and short films for opening up more substantial roles for female actors. She said, "To a certain extent, with streamers nowadays, there are some projects in which you will have female cops and things like that, or you will have women in negative or complex roles. But you will see mostly older women in such roles, by and large, except for some exceptions." –ETimes

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*Results are based on the best five subjects in the CBSE Grade X Board Examinations, February–March 2026.

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